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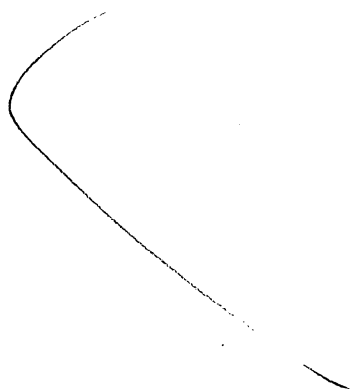
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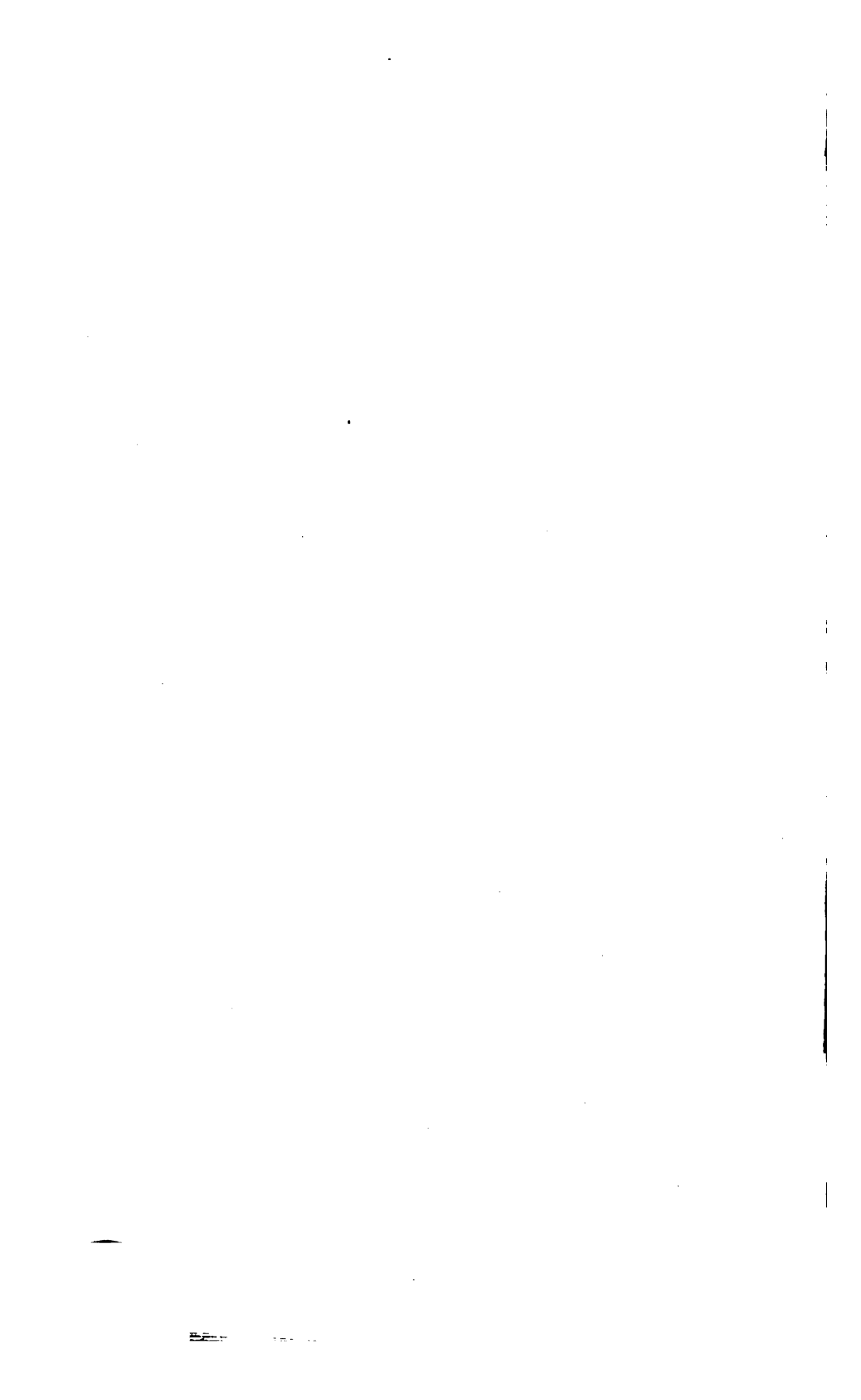
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CONFESSIONS.

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THE
CONFESSIONS

OF THE

Countess of Strathmore;

Mary Eleanor Lyon Bowes

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

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THE ORIGINAL,

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DOCTOR'S COMMONS.

When hoary Age the lustful Passions bend,
Compunction oft the Matron's bosom rend:
Then comes CONFESSION, eager to disclose
The *source* and *cause* of all her present woes.

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1902

CONFESSIONS.

I HAVE been guilty of five crimes.

The first, my unnatural dislike to my eldest son, for faults which, at most, he could only be the innocent cause and not the author of: of this I have repented many months ago, and am most sincerely sorry I did not sooner, in compliance with sincere and most disinterested advice.

My second crime was, my connection with Mr. Gray before Lord Strathmore's
B death;

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death; in punishment of which very crime, God blinded my judgment, that I could not discern, in any case, what was for my children's and my own advantage; but in every thing where there were two expedients, I chose the worst.

By medicines, I have reason to think, I miscarried three times, and attempted it the fourth; but, thank God, failed perpetrating that crime.

Next, I repent having profaned Saint Paul's and Westminster Abbey, by giving Mr. Gray meetings there, before Lord Strathmore's death; and that afterwards, instead of using the influence I had over him to make him a better christian, I rather made him worse.

Ano-

Another crime was, plighting myself most solemnly to Mr. Gray, at St. Paul's, to marry none but him ; and yet I married you, which, together with my previous connection with you, I reckon amongst my crimes,

I am now going to enumerate my imprudencies ; first declaring, I have told you every crime I ever was guilty of, and that I never had a criminal connection with any person but yourself and Mr. Gray, and that Mr. James Graham was the only one, besides, who could have stood the least chance of succeeding in such an attempt : yet violent as my passion was for him, I do still sincerely think it was pure ; for my anxiety about his health and welfare continued two years after he left England, though I never saw or heard from him

during that time, or received a message from him by his sister above twice, though she always wrote about him.

Of my imprudencies I shall now give you an exact account, under general heads, as you desired; referring for your inspection, in case you chuse to see it, a most circumstantial account of every thought and action of my life, which I am drawing up.

I was imprudent, though most innocent, both in thought and deed, in my flirtation—when quite a girl, with the Duke of Buccleugh's brother, which lasted but a very short time. I was imprudent in marrying Lord Strathmore, against my mother's advice, though with her consent.

I was

I was so imprudent, as to give very improper encouragement to Mr. James Graham, and to give him reason, by indirect, though plain words, to think that I had more than an affectionate friendship for him ; and that I had once, I confess, and was weak enough, during a fortnight that he lived under the same roof, and were much together, to admit from him many improper declarations, not only without anger, but even with satisfaction. After he went out of Scotland, I received one letter from him only, which I burnt to ashes, and drank them up for fear of any accident : I never wrote to him but once, which was in a feigned hand, and what none but himself could understand : this was in a cover of his sister's letter, which reached him all torn to pieces, and long after the time it ought ; so that it

was

was quite unintelligible, and never after that wrote to him except once, all before he left London. We often sent such messages, as we could with safety, to each other, through his sister's means; who all the time protested she would not do such a thing, and made Mrs. Parish believe the affection was all on my side—that she wished to dissuade me from such thoughts, and refused to write any message, which I believe she thinks to this moment; and that Miss Graham is a most virtuous woman and true friend, which is so much, I know, the very reverse of her character, that after I was thoroughly acquainted with it, nothing should have induced me to keep up a correspondence, or the least acquaintance with her, but my passion for her brother, and the use she was of to me in it.

At

At length I thought he used me very ill, and after complaining of it without redress (though I have reason to believe Miss G. concealed a letter, if not more, of his from me) I wrote a very violent letter to Miss G. full of abuse of her brother; and concluding, with desiring she would retail it to him, and add, that he might 'aller se faire pendre.' This hurt her exceedingly, and having no occasion for such a troublesome woman, I was glad to get rid of her correspondence.

When he came to see me in London after this, (which was after Lord Strathmore's death) and waited on me, I would not see him, and he attempted to throw himself in my way to no purpose. I was then engaged to Mr. Gray, and having, at the risk of my life, conquered my
head-

headstrong passion, I was determined not to expose myself to another conflict, with one whom I had so much reason to be afraid of.

I was more than imprudent in encouraging and keeping company with people of such execrable and infamous principles: though, indeed, I did not think them such then; but that is no excuse for me, as I ought not to have trusted or allowed any body to have frequented my house, without a previous long acquaintance. It was still worse, to let George so much into my secrets. As to my madness, in wishing Mrs. Stephens to stay with me after I was married, I can only say, that it was a diabolical infatuation, and that had I known her as I do now, I should not only have intreated you to turn her out
of

of the house directly ; and have confessed, that such a wretch was not fit to live on the earth ; and had I known Mr. Stephens, who I took for an honest, blunt man, I should have thought only with horror of his ever being near my sons, or in my house.

Going to the Conjuror's in Dean-street, was a great imprudence, as also was consulting one three years before, on Ludgate-hill (I think it was) where I went with Mrs. Planta and Mrs. Parish, and also twice to a woman in Crown-court, once alone, and once with Mrs. Stephens : besides this, I consulted some Gypsies in a barn, three summers ago, at Paul's Walden, and three near there of different sets.

C

I was

I was imprudent to carry my revenge (as I then thought it) on the Planta family, so far as to advise Mrs. Stephens to marry against her consent, and to send her off to Scotland, which I ought not to have done, even if she had been a good woman.

I had at this time a footman, one William Stamp, who (that I might not so often appear to have letters from Miss Graham) I used to send now and then to Newcastle, under pretence of seeing his brother who lived there (when I knew of a letter coming, which I often did before-hand) and bid him bring the letters to myself first—but this was all he knew of the matter.

It was not till after many months of constant attention, and many marks of sincerity and friendship, that, just as I was going to Paul's Walden for two months,

(L. S.

(L. S. at Bristol) Mr. Gray ventured to give me some verses, which expressed in a delicate, though rather in too tender a manner for mere friendship, his regard for me, and his great concern for my leaving London. From many circumstances, I had conceived so high an opinion of the goodness of his heart and disposition, that I was unwilling to lose his friendship; so that though I made no answer, I expressed no anger, but continued corresponding with him openly and fairly till we both returned to town: soon after that, Lord S. went to Mr. Palgrave's, where he made some stay. One day just after, as Mrs. Parish and me were sitting at dinner, the post brought me a letter from Mr. Lyon, in which he refused, very uncivilly, to send me a small sum of money, I told him I had written for by Lord S.'s directions;

and another letter from Miss Graham, in which I found she had received a letter from her brother, who, as he began to do for some time before, never so much as mentioned me, but spoke with the highest commendations of a lady at Minorca, where he was arrived. As I was full of resentment at Mr. Lyon, and determined never more to think of Mr. James Graham, a servant, (I don't recollect who, for I had no secrets then) brought me a letter from Mr. Gray, who by an Enigma, very ingeniously invented, had pitched upon that very day to see how far he might venture: if I was angry, he might have explained it away; but if I understood it, or pretended not to understand it, then he might speak plainer. I chose the latter method, and, full of resentment, thought I had revenged myself
on

on others, whilst I was literally on myself: as I felt nothing for Mr. G. that exceeded friendship, or gave me cause to apprehend the consequences of such a connection, I consented to accept the love of a man, whom I could always keep within bounds, and whom I had conceived such an esteem for, that I reckoned his friendship a comfort I should be very sorry to lose. I saw him three times when I knew Mrs. Parish was at the Museum, and met him for a short time, as if by accident, at the Ring, without, I really believe, any suspicion; but as Lord S. was out of town—was expected soon to return, he pressed me to see him oftener at my house, and meet him oftener at different places abroad; but this was found impracticable without trusting somebody; and unfortunately, after taking what we thought all necessary precautions,

we

we agreed to trust George, whose secrecy and caution, we both thought we had reason to be satisfied with: we imprudently allowed him to tell us freely all the reports of the town, on every occasion, where either were in the least concerned.

He once, I am convinced, from some interested motive, rendered us a material service in preventing, by a ready turn, it's being detected that he was in the house. In this manner we went on till Lord S. returned to town, and he went to Bath, agreeing not to correspond till I wrote to tell him he might return, which I did in a month's time, when Lord S. went away, but did not see him for some days, I cannot recollect how many, but once in that month he came up to town, and contrived to convey me a note, letting me know, that
his

his impatience had made him disobey my orders, and come up to town without a summons, just to see me for an hour or two. He therefore begged I would meet him at Lever's, as by accident, which I did, and he returned directly to Bath, where he staid till I wrote to him to return. The weather being extremely severe the day before he went to Bath, and I having met him very early in Saint James's Park, my shoes extremely wet, and bottom of my petticoats, and I not having leisure to change them for some time after I came home, I caught a flow fever, and cut myself dreadfully by falling on the ice; so that I was ill when I went to Lever's, where I encreased my complaints; and just after Lord S. went away, I fell into an ague, in my face, from which I suffered for near a month, half
of

of every twenty-fours hours such torments, as nothing but the disorder I had just after my marriage, can in any degree be compared to: my head swelled so, yet without easing my pain, that I was blind, and even spoke with pain. In this miserable condition, Mr. G. visited me every evening unknown, as I thought by all but George, who let him in, and unsuspected by all but Mrs. Parish, who sometimes remonstrated, but very gently, and I turned it off with a laugh or joke: at first, she thought it only flirtation, and then she said nothing; for there is not, with all her pretended gravity and prudence, so great a coquette, or one so easily flattered, even on her beauty, as she is; which, if you doubt, I can bring you many undeniable proofs. Witness for one thing, how

Alexan-

Alexander Nairne made her appear ridiculous.

I omitted to mention, in its proper place, that I told Mr. Gray he had my friendship and esteem ; that my heart had long been in possession of another, from whom I had determined to withdraw it, but had done it so short a time, that I should think it an injury against the friendship and confidence he was entitled to, if I concealed this circumstance from him : also, that I had been so unhappy in matrimony, that I was determined never to engage myself indissolubly, though I would most faithfully, if, on these conditions, he would be satisfied with my affection, he should have it entire if Lord S. died ; that if he recovered, he must give me up ; and that during my husband's

D

life,

life; he must decline all thoughts of me. To all this with reluctance, and finding me peremptory, he consented, and gave me his promise, which he strictly kept till I was just recovered, when I found he expected to be rewarded, for the very great attentions (by writing to me all day, and sitting by me all the evening) which he constantly paid during my confinement: and one unfortunate evening I was off my guard, and ever after that (the middle of February) I lived occasionally with him as his wife; and from that time, till my connection with you, I declare, I never had a thought of any other man.

I was once with child by him, before I heard of Lord S.'s death, which I did not till the 6th of April; but was so frightened and unhappy at it, that I prevailed on
him

him to bring me a quack medicine he had heard of for miscarriage, but never tried it: it was of a coperas substance, by the taste and look; he gave it me very reluctantly, as he said he did not know but it might be poison; however, I would have it.

All the time of my connection with Mr. Gray, precautions were taken; but an instant's neglect always destroyed them all: indeed, sometimes, even when I thought an accident scarcely possible.

My folly was unpardonable, in trusting Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, George Stephens, Mr. Matra, Mr. Magra, Mr. Pemberton, (whom I once actually told I was married to Mr. Gray) and, above all things, George, in talking of my affairs and in-

tentions so freely before them. I also depended most fatally on Mr. Peele's honesty; and, three or four times, added a few lines in too free and jocose a stile to Mr. Stephens, in the letters Mrs. Stephens wrote him: he answered these paragraphs in her letter, which she shewed me. To the best of my recollection, I never wrote to Mr. Stephens, but in his wife's letters, which I read to her, or shewed her, and was added on the same paper she wrote on; and he never wrote to me any other way; (all this was only whilst he was at Winchester, except once that he wrote only to myself) having wrote to her the post before, which was a fulsome letter about his wife, who, I told him, had not been well, (which was true) owing, I believe, to his absence: and, I protest, I thought so then.

This

This letter was chiefly, if not solely, expressing his anxiety for her health, and dependance on my friendly care: I burnt this, with several other letters, a few days after I received it. This moment I recollect I have made a mistake; for I had a letter of thanks from him whilst he was on the expedition to Scotland. I had once a letter from Mr. G. Stephens, excusing himself from dining with me that day, according to invitation, as he was obliged to leave town on particular business. I corresponded constantly with Mr. Pember-ton for some years; and as he writes well, I have most, if not all, his letters in London, (and the few I had from Captain Magra) at least, I had when I came down here last; for I saw them amongst my papers when I came down to the election. All Dr. Brown's letters, several letters of
business

business to, and copies of letters from me, and some others less material, were all removed before my return, and without my order. I wish I had some of Dr. Brown's letters; for they might have done me credit if seen.

When Mr. Stephens was at Winchester, I advised Mrs. Stephens to take a vomit, thinking she was with child; as I had taken a ridiculous notion into my head, that having children made a man like his wife less.

According to Miss Graham's desire and to prevent accidents, I burnt all the letters I had from her as fast as they came; which I have since repented of. I also burnt all Mr. Gray's letters from the same fear: I mean only those which I received before

Lord

Lord Strathmore's return from Mr. Palgrave's,

I was always extremely filly, in not minding reports; on the contrary, rather encouraged them; partly, that I might laugh at other people's absurdities and credulity, and partly, because I left it to time and reason, to shew they were false, and thought a variety of reports would puzzle people; so that they would look upon every one relating to me, as equally false, and even not credit the truth. Whereas, I have since had reason to fear it had quite a contrary effect from what I imagined and intended.

I foolishly let George tell me all the ridiculous stories he heard about Mr. Gray and myself, and other people, so far as they

they related to us : and we used to laugh at them ; and as he was to have been our courier, when we went abroad, which was fixed for the 8th or 10th of April, to stay two, three, or more years ; I used to let him ask me any French words he did not understand, as he knew that language. I gave him, the day or two before my marriage, the deed drawn up on account of my intended marriage with Mr. Gray, along with a vast heap of papers and letters, and an old lease or two of the house, of little or no consequence, and bid him put them all into the kitchen fire ; but before he could get there, called him back, and after swearing him to secrecy, bid him only burn the papers, and keep the deed till I called for, or bid him burn it.

I declare

I declare solemnly, I did not do this from any mistrust in your generosity or honour. How could I? For I had a high opinion of both, and had never seen or heard (except your behaviour to Mrs. Stoney, which I believed to be only county of Durham malice) any thing which induced me to think otherwise: besides, as I yielded all my fortune without any reserve for myself, and as I am very far from an extravagant woman, I never had a doubt, you would cheerfully supply me with what sums I might want, which would be very small indeed after my debts were paid, which I have often wished I could have done before I married. Therefore, you see my doubt could by no means concern myself: but it struck me, that having taken such precautions on my children's

E account,

account, (for whom I was answerable, though not for myself) with a man who I knew I could trust; I ought not to be less cautious with one whom I could not be so strongly assured of: but I would not tell you of the paper, lest it should look like mistrust.

Your fondness for my children, and the generosity I thought I discovered in you, on all occasions relating to pecuniary matters; together with the apparent openness of your temper, which was very bearable till long after that, made me assure myself I had nothing to fear for my children, and reproach my heart, for ever having entertained a shadow of a doubt. Therefore, before we came to the election, I ordered George to burn the paper; and

and when we were at Gibside, I once asked him if he had ; and he declared he had : but not content with that, I had written three or four lines in French when I told him, (not having time to tell him when I spoke to him) that I charged him never to reveal having had that deed, or of any other thing he knew relating to me ; and threatened him if he did. This was madness, and thank God I changed my mind and burnt the paper, (for whilst I hesitated, I believe he went away) else he might have shewn that paper to Mr. Lyon : so chance stood my friend, I confess, and not prudence.

I told you, if I don't greatly mistake or forget, that I gave Mr. Stephens 1000l. within a month or six weeks before my marriage with you, but that I could not speak

certainly as to the time. I have since recollected that I told you wrong. About that time, I gave Mrs. Stephens a sum for her own use, of 50l. or 100l. (I cannot be positive which, but I think the latter) and this must have been what misled me.—Something you said since you came to Gibside—I think it was his being so communicative, and speaking his opinion so blunt to every body—reminded me of the mistake I had made: would I had told you of it then; but I foolishly, out of fear of your anger, delayed telling you till now: It was the very evening of the day I was married, that I gave Mrs. Stephens, and not Mr. Stephens, the 1000l. which I desired she would accept for herself and him, in performance of a promise I had made him the day (the first I ever saw him) before he went off with
that

that more than woman, that I would pay his debts; he having told me at that time, which I remember greatly prejudiced me in his favour, that he had debts to the amount of some hundred pounds, and that he could not be easy in his mind, if he entered into an engagement with Mrs. Stephens; and therefore lived in my family (as I told him he was to do) without letting us know how he was situated. This, together with the affection he took that opportunity of expressing for his last wife, made me rejoice in having met with such a person. I told him, if he made Mrs. Stephens a good husband, and behaved in the manner I had no doubt he would, I would take care he should have no trouble from his debts—I really believe he made her a good husband, (I still believe he does a better than she deserves, I am sure

fure he cannot a worfe) and I gave her,
 the evening of the day I married you,
 1000l. to give him, doubting not that
 would be a pleasing step to both, and en-
 dear her more to him. His apparent fin-
 cerity and honeft freedom in expoftulat-
 ing with me, when I told him I was mar-
 ried to you, pleased and affected me great-
 ly, and moved me to a fincere forrow and
 penitence. I thought it became a Cler-
 gyman and an honeft one, and I thought
 him fincere and honeft in what he faid,
 and that he risked his fortune to fpeak
 truth : even when him and his wife went
 to France, I actually thought them — to that
 very time, but no longer, from fome hints
 you directly after that let drop—fincere
 and faithful friends to both you and me,
 and grieved you did not treat them better;
 fuch was my infatuation. May Mr. S.
 forgive

forgive me, the sad wretch I unknowingly gave him.

It was the night, or two nights after this; the night Mrs. S. and Mrs. G. S. came from Paul's Walden, that I sat up with Mr. George Stephens till two o'clock (I think it was) in the morning, which gave you such offence. Our whole conversation was about you; he was of a different opinion from his brother, who he said thought and spoke like a Parson, but not like a gentleman of unprejudiced education; a man of nice honour and delicate feelings. He commended what I had done, which he said he never should have doubted my doing, had he not believed I was previously married. He commended me much, and blamed Mr. Gray. This, and observations and ac-
counts

counts of what happened at Paul's Walden, was the whole purport of our conversation that night, which was the only particular, or so circumstantial one, I ever had with him in my life.

As to Mr. Stephens, I believe it is needless to tell you, I never saw him before Mr. Matra introduced him to me; and Mr. Matra was introduced by the commendation of his brother, the Captain, and by the very strong ones of Dr. Sotlander.

As to Mrs. Parish, she provoked me by an uninterrupted series of ill-temper, deceit, self-interestedness, and ingratitude; with obstinacy, and in many respects a bad method with my children; and I found she misled and mis-informed me
in

in the objects of my charity; in short, she was too insufferable, else I would have retained her. But, as I owe her nothing, and she much to me, I shall say no more about her.

I cannot be positive as to the month, but think it must have been in October, when I went to the Conjuror in Pearstreet. Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Pennick, Mr. Matra (all of whom I think breakfasted with me that morning) were of the party, and Capt. Magra met us, I think half way. Mrs. Stephens told me of a Conjuror at the Old Bailey, who she had been to; and I had a curiosity to see him. Accordingly, we walked to the Old Bailey, where we met a little boy, who came up to us and asked if we wanted the gentleman who so many people came after, and that he

F

would

would conduct us to him? we said yes, and he carried us through blind alleys to Pear-street: Mrs. Stephens told me afterwards it was not the man she had been to before. It was between 11 and 12, as near as I can recollect, when we got to Pear-street, and there were such a number of people in the room we waited in, to whom the Conjuror was first engaged, and they took so long a time to have their fortunes told, that it was almost 6 o'clock before they began with us; and Capt. Magra and self were weak enough to go down twice to the cellar or room below stairs, where he sat. Capt. Magra, who went down in perfect unbelief, came up convinced of the man's knowledge from what he told him. The two brothers, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. Pennick, and myself, returned in a hackney-coach, which

which was called in Smithfield, from Pear-street to Grosvenor-square, or very near it, I forgot which; and I did not get home till past eight o'clock, almost starved to death with cold and hunger; for it was with great difficulty we procured, a little before we came away, a little bad bread and water, and two logs of green wood, which we put in a chimney-place where there was no grate, and which gave very little warmth, in a cold rainy day, to the coldest room I ever was in, and which had no other furniture than two (or three at most) rotten chairs, and a wooden trunk. I went by the name of the widow Smith, and Mrs. Stephens, and Mr. Pennick, by some other, which I cannot at present recollect, though I have endeavoured to do it. During the first part of the time we were waiting, Mr.

Pennick wrote some verses (and repeated several quotations) which begun with,

“ Thro’ Dirty-street we bent our way,

“ To have our Fortunes told to-day (or this day.”)

To the best of my recollection, there were eight or ten more of the same sort of lines followed these, but of which I could not for my life recollect one word, any more than of two or four (I believe four) lines I wrote likewise on the partition, which contained some reflection on a general head ; to the best of my remembrance, it was against matrimony ; I am sure, at least I think I am, that I should recollect them if I saw them again, and I would tell you. Before we went away, we rubbed all the verses out with our fingers so carefully, that I can swear that none but the two, which you shewed me
were

were possibly legible, and they not without the greatest difficulty, the pencil being blacker as they were first written, I suppose was the reason they were plainer. Mr. Magra, and I think Mr. Pennick, staid supper; and I believe it was nearer one than twelve when they went away: I cannot recollect whether Mr. Gray supped with me that night, but I know he did not dine in Grosvenor-square. Mrs. Stephens sung and played from dinner till supper, and afterwards we laughed at the adventures of the day. When we were at the Conjuror's waiting, a variety of strange citizens, &c. came in and out, as there was but one anti-chamber for us all: the gentlemen entered into conversation with them all, but I only spoke to two; the first a woman, the best and most decent looking, who told me her history,

and

and her repenting of not taking the Conjuror's advice, who she consulted two or three times, or oftener, in a year. I passed myself upon her for a Grocer's widow, and was come to consult the Conjuror, whether I should marry a Brewer, or Sugar-boiler, who proposed to me amongst others, and I had ten children. Mrs. Stephens also spoke, the only one I think she did. The other person I spoke to, was a little Portuguese Jew, about 15 years old, whose father, a rich broker, or pawnbroker, Capt. Magra knew; and we two spoke to him in Spanish, though not much: his father had sent him to find out who stole some of his silver spoons. It is impossible a more exact or true account of this silly affair can be given, than is now before you.

In

In the course of this long story, three or four trifling circumstances escaped my memory, so that I cannot place them under the proper heads they belonged to, and now they will appear totally unconnected; but as I profess (and most sincerely) to omit not one circumstance, either material or trifling, and that is the only merit I pretend or wish for in this Narration; I shall attend to exactness, and not regularity, which you will perceive I have all along too much neglected, having written things exactly as they presented themselves to my memory.

When Mr. Scot gave me the blue ring, I gave him one my father had given me, exactly the same, by which means nobody perceived I had got a new ring, and this none knew but ourselves. I endeavoured
to

to persuade Mr. Liddle, by hints, &c. it was the Duke of Buccleugh and not his brother, whom I had a liking for, and puzzled him, that he sometimes thought the Duke, and sometimes Mr. Scot.

When I went to the Park, Kenfington Gardens, or any way in the street to meet Mr. Gray, I forgot to mention that George walked behind me, and therefore knew of it; also when I went to the Gypsies and Conjuror's.

When I mentioned William Stamp, I likewise forgot to tell you that twice or thrice, in paying him a bill, I gave him some money (a guinea or two at most) over what was due, under pretence of rewarding his diligence as a servant, but, in fact, as a bribe (though I did
not

not tell him so) not to speak of the letters he brought, as I told you, from Newcastle.

N. B. It had almost flit my memory to tell you that Lord S.'s beauty, which was then very great, and a dream or rather vision, to which I was foolish enough to give more credit than it deserved, were two great inducements to me to marry Lord S.

One thing more, and I have quite done. I do assure you, you did me great injustice in thinking those fits were affected to which I have so many years been subject, and from which I have suffered so much at various times. The last I had, also the night before Dr. Scott left Gipside, was indeed real; but I confess, that out

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of fulkiness for what you had said to me that day, I did not speak or answer you so soon as I was able.

I have now punctually, minutely, and most entirely given you a full account of every thing I ever did, said, or thought, that was wrong.

I have, under my own hand, furnished you with a perpetual fund for unkindness, and even good excuse for bad usage; but you are my husband—I obey you, and if you continue to distrust, abuse, and think of me as you have hitherto done, Providence must and will decide which of us two is most to blame.

I know, according to your promise, you will never again repeat past grievances;

ances; but if you think of them I shall suffer as much and more from the unkindness, your brooding silently over them will constantly create; for indeed I fear you are of an unforgiving, and in this respect unforgetting temper; else you could not, for so many months together, have behaved so uniformly cruel to one whose whole wish and study was to please you.

If you think my sincerity and unreserved confession of my faults may entitle me to ask a favour, let me beg your promise to burn these papers, at least that you will destroy them when I die, that I may not stand condemned and disgraced, under my own hand, to posterity.

I am going to fulfil my promise of laying before you all the crimes and foibles of my life. To prove that I am sincere,

I know not what method to take. I cannot make any imprecations on myself, as I am already so loaded with misery, that there is only one curse which is not mine already. Therefore, I only wish that one may happen to me, if I do not speak (without the least extenuation) the whole and exact truth: that I do this I can only refer to a long series of sufferings and patience to prove, if it please God to give me strength and resolution to trail out my existence till even you are convinced, by my example, that a person who has once been vicious, may repent and become good.

I am convinced that the want of a proper sense of religion has been the original cause of all my errors; all the grounds of this mischief was laid before my father died, and then I was only between eleven
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and twelve years old. My father was the youngest of four sons, and intended for a profession, but never would give his mind in the least to study; on the contrary, when only eighteen he ran away, and laid out what money his mother had given him for other purposes, in buying a commission in the army, where he continued till he came to the estate. As he was uncommonly handsome, and a great rake in his youth, he grew very pious in his advanced years, and having felt the want of education and study, for he was (as I have heard him say) determined his heir should not feel the same inconveniences; accordingly, he brought me up with a view to my being as accomplished at thirteen, as his favourite first wife was at that age, in every kind of learning, except Latin.

At

At four years old I could read uncommonly well, and was kept tight to it, made to get many things off by heart. I read the Bible, but at the same time equal or greater pains were taken to instruct me in the Mythology of every Heathen nation that ever existed; and my father, who was a real patriot and a brave man, was continually expatiating on the patriotic virtues, and shining merits of the ancient philosophers and heroes. My mind was so puzzled with such a variety of religions, that, except the firm belief of a God, I knew not which of all the modes of worship to adopt from real conviction; as to the weak judgment of a child, all appeared equally supported by tradition. However, I saw my father was a christian, and a protestant, therefore I called and believed myself one too, though it is not
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till within these few months that I have had leisure, composure, and inclination to investigate these matters ; and now I am become a christian from conviction,

Another misfortune for me, was, that though my father did not applaud suicide and revenge in general terms, by their names ; I have often heard him speak highly of men who have been guilty of them ; Cato for one instance. My father's whole care and attention was bestowed on the improvement of my knowledge, in whatever I shewed a genius for ; and in acquiring me a great stock of health, hardening and strengthening my constitution by every possible means, often the most rigid ones. My father was continually talking of, and endeavouring to inculcate into me, sentiments of generosity,

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gratitude, fortitude, and duty to himself, and an insatiable thirst for all kinds of knowledge. But I never heard him once say, to the best of my recollection, that chastity, patience, and forgiveness of injuries, were virtues; and he was very passionate. During his life, my mother did not interfere with my education. When I was between eleven or twelve years old, he died. Amongst other things, my father made me speak speeches before much company, and get most part of Ovid's Metamorphoses by heart, as well as Milton, &c. My mother staid at Gibside, where my father died, till I was near thirteen. We went then to London and staid till I was fourteen, she continuing all that time in such affliction, as to be incapable of attending either to my education or morals: for the former she relied on the best master,

master, and my own desire of learning, and for my conduct, she relied on an old maiden aunt, Mrs. J. B. who came up to town, and till I married I lived chiefly with her. This woman first introduced me into the world, when my mother could not go out. She had been a celebrated beauty, and extremely vain; but, unfortunately for me, of nothing more, than having a niece who was one of the greatest fortunes in England; and (though I ought not to say it, nor do I but with confusion and shame, that I did not employ my talents better) a prodigy of learning. Mrs. Montague, amongst others, was pleased to honour me with her friendship, approbation, and correspondence, (I can yet shew several of her letters) and this continued without interruption till Lord S. after my marriage, obliged me to break off with her, in a

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very rude and abrupt manner, (going no more to her Sundays, and only once a year rapping at her door) telling me she was a wild, light, filly woman, of bad character, and not fit for my acquaintance. Sadly against my inclination, I was forced to comply, and give her up, with many others.

But, to return to my aunt: she was for two years (after which I returned under my mother's care) so indulgent a chaperon, that I must say, if I had not been more prudent than most young girls of my age, I might have been less so.

The first imprudence I ever was guilty of, was carrying on for twelve months a flirtation with Mr. Scott, the Duke of Buccleugh's brother, whom I frequently met
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and danced with at children's balls, as they were called, and chiefly at the Dukes of Northumberland's. Girls and boys were admitted from five or six, to fourteen or fifteen years old. I was thirteen when this began, and Mr. Scott was a year or two older, I cannot be sure which. He liked my conversation, and as he was smart and clever, I liked his; and all this would have only been a flirtation, I really believe, had not my silly cousin, Liddell, who was his school-fellow, and was staying with my mother, teased us into a belief that we were in love with each other; however, no further engagement passed between us than that he told me he had a tender affection for me, and liked my company better than any other girl's; at which I was not displeased, but in return, I particularly remember I made use of the words, "ten-

der esteem for him." He went soon after into the army, and before he set out for Germany asked me to exchange rings with him, which I readily agreed to ; and you know and have often seen the ring. He died about a twelve month after he went abroad, of the small pox, in the natural way.

N. B. The present Mr. Charles Fox had a great liking for me, and followed me, but had too much pride to tell me so directly, as he saw I preferred Mr. Scott, for which reason, I know, he abused both.

This affair of Scott's, was a great imprudence, but, thank God, no worse.

After I recovered the shock of Mr. Scott's death, whose mother, Lady Dalkeith, hurt me much by her unfeelingness ; I amused myself, till I engaged to marry

marry Lord S. with alternate study and diversions; such as public places, &c. I had, I do assure you, no partiality for any man in the world, though I had a great many offers made to my mother for me; as I told every body who offered, that I should not hear any thing on that subject from any person, as all offers of that kind must come through my mother: accordingly, they all found themselves obliged to apply to her; by which conduct, I was both esteemed an uncommon prudent girl, and had the satisfaction of refusing a great many people of rank, in such due form as flattered my vanity, and made it impossible they could deny (as they might otherwise) that they had offered to me. And so great was my reputation for prudence in these respects, that though a young Venetian Marquis, with
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my mother's acknowledged consent and approbation, attended on me for near a twelve month, to all public places as Ciccebeo, and was frequent in his visits at our house, the world did us justice in believing this connection was entirely owing to my mother; and wishing me to be perfect in the Italian language, and to his speaking English so very badly, that he could keep no company, but such as spoke Italian (for his French was little better) and the number of those was still much more inconsiderable at that period than it is now, especially amongst the ladies. My mother was always partial to the Italian nation and their language. The Marquis, who was on his travels through Europe, proceeded to Paris, and so we parted with the same civility and indifference as we met: he sent my two little dogs from Paris;

wrote

wrote once or twice from France, and once from Peterburgh; since when, I have heard nothing of or from him.

I gave some encouragement to Lord Strathmore, but it was slight, though more than to others: he wrote a letter to me with a declaration; and having, as I afterwards found, tried unsuccessfully, many ways to get it conveyed to me, sent it by Mrs. Baker, who came under a pretence of spending a day or two with my mother, who, at that time, hated the sight of her, and never asked her to stay all night, as she thought her very officious, in speaking much, and greatly, in praise of the Lord Strathmore's family; as my mother thought, (though she never positively told me so) I shewed more partiality to Lord S. than to any other person. Mrs. Baker took
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an opportunity, when she was out of the room, to give me Lord S's letter; I guessed what it was, but, after reading a few of the first lines, returned it to Mrs. B. telling her, I would not receive any letters in that manner, and I thought the office she had undertaken very unbecoming of her, or any gentlewoman; and that the gentleman, whose name I had not looked at, or was desirous to know, (here she interrupted me and said it was Lord S.) must apply to my mother, if he meant to have any answer. I then left her under great mortification; but I did not tell my mother what had passed, from an apprehension, that it might set her more against my marrying Lord S; and, because she was so reserved, that she did not treat even me, with the confidence, I think, a daughter entitled to. Therefore, I never durst open
my

my heart to, or consult upon these subjects; and to this I attribute, in a great measure, the chief of my misfortunes through life. Indeed, I must say, I was always a dutiful child to her, till I was married, and I have often heard her own it.

Soon after Lord S. received my answer from Mrs. Baker, he came to Gibside, and made his proposals in form to my mother, who told him, she would acquaint me, and as we were going directly to London, for which place he also was going to set out, he should have his answer there: but she did not tell me of his having offered, till two days after he had left the house; and then affected to mention it as a thing she did not doubt I should refuse; as, she said, there were three objections; disorder
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in the family; a mother, and many brothers and sisters, whom, perhaps, I should find troublesome; and, lastly, (the chief with her) his being a Scotchman, The first, I had often heard, was only a false report, and believed sincerely it proceeded from envy, ill nature, and partly spite: the second, would afford me an opportunity of endearing myself to my husband, whose relations, I never doubted, would behave well to me; and the third, was a recommendation, as I had always a much greater partiality for the Scotch and Irish, than for the English.

I accordingly told her, that I had no objection to Lord Strathmore; but, that if her's were insuperable, I would not marry without her consent—only claimed the privilege of not marrying at all; which,

which, in that case, I was determined on. She then gave her consent, and said, she would tell Lord S. when he came to town, as agreed on; and he went to town directly. I must not omit here to mention, that Mrs. Parish, then my governess, spoke greatly against Lord S.

His favourite uncle, Charles Lyon, taking a fever, and dying just after we left the country, detained Lord S. so long from coming up to London to receive this, and as he durst not write, I did not know the cause, that I thought myself slighted. Though grieved and provoked, I put on a cheerful countenance, and danced frequently at Almack's, with various people who followed me, though they had not then declared themselves: amongst these, the most assiduous were

Lord Mountstuart and Mr. Chaloner. I gave neither of them encouragement; yet they contrived one night to quarrel, and put the whole room in an uproar at Almack's, about who should sit next me at supper. Both went out in a passion; a challenge was given, but prevented by one of the gentlemen (I believe Mr. Chaloner, but never could be sure which) asking pardon. Lady Mountstuart, then Miss Windfor, sat one side of me, and having even then a partiality for Lord M.S. begged me to take notice of and encourage him, as he was like a madman, and exposed himself to all the company, I confess, I did, with a premeditated design, shew great civility to Lady Bute and her daughters, one night at Almack's, in order, that before Lord S. arrived, and my engagement to him was known, I might have an opportunity of
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refusing Lord M. S. This civility, which Lady Bute construed into encouragement, had the desired effect; and over-reached her great caution and pride (which I knew she had) in not offering, with a chance of her son's being refused: next morning she waited on my mother, to propose for her son, and met a mortification which hurt her much, and made him keep his bed for a week. This I confess, was downright girlishness, mischievousness, and vanity.

My marriage treaty with Lord S. for one delay or other, trailed on about a year and a half; during which, I found our tempers, dispositions, and turns different — wished to retract (and would, if I durst have consulted with my mother) but my pride, and sometimes my weakness, would
not

not let me: at length we were married, at Paul's Walden, and I was brought a fortnight after to Gibside; though I had began to be ill, just before I set out, as two or three of the party had fluxes at Paul's Walden; which we attributed to my mother's bad Port-wine. I said, though I never tasted but one glass of it, that it had also affected me, in a most dangerous and poisonous manner, by a partial eruption; though I don't believe the doctors were, or could be, imposed upon.

I intended candidly, and in the fullest manner, to lay before you every action of my life, relative to the least imprudence I ever was guilty of: I have written a good deal; but as you are impatient, and perceiving I labour under a load of imputations, yet unknown to me, though credited

dited by you, many of which, I dare say, are false ; I shall, till after this is finished, leave the trifling things, which were only inadvertencies any girl might be and is guilty of ; and hasten to tell you, in as few words as possible, every imprudence, and every crime, I have been guilty of, since my marriage with Lord Strathmore, which is as far back as I imagine you are immediately anxious to know.

I had by him all my five children ; and during that time, never had one thought, did one action, or said one word, which Heaven might not know without blaming me, or indeed himself ; except the dislike I had but too much cause to entertain for Mr. Lyon. Before I had been many months married, however, I put up with that, and the disagreeable behaviour
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of the rest of the family, and concealed it as much as possible from the world, till he publicly, and causelessly, as many can witness, insulted me in the public rooms at Edinburgh, where I was with him and Mrs. Lyon, who was just married, all the race-week without Lord Strathmore; during which time, he behaved in such a manner, as scandalized the whole town of Edinburgh; who, at that time, hated him as much as they liked and pitied me. I complained mildly to Lord Strathmore about his brother; but it was an unfortunate and most prejudiced rule with him, that Mr. Lyon could not err; so I got no other redress than his saying, that though he was hasty, he had a good heart, and never meant to offend. I never complained to my mother on any occasion of Lord S. or his family; but, on the contrary,

trary, expressed an uncommon regard for both, of which she was jealous, and made her believe they used me extremely well : for as I had married him against her advice, my pride would not let me complain, had they used me ten times worse.

The year before this, Mr. Robert Graham, of Fuitry, took all opportunities to be in my company, and to express, though not improperly, his regard and attention to me. He once told me so positively, and received such an answer as was proper, and which, from my foolish flirting with him, I dare say he did not expect. He went from Glames in a pet, and being a man of violent resentments (which in all instances have turned out against himself) he directly proposed to Miss Peggy Mylne, who always had a penchant for him ; but

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whom he had taken every opportunity, both in public and private, to abuse in a most groundless and violent manner; and to profess, that he would rather die than marry her: yet she consented—they were married suddenly without his parents consent.

The year before, when I was on a visit to his mother, I saw for the first time, and not again for two years, his youngest brother, James: he was quite a boy, but a very extraordinary one, and I must confess, much too forward for his years, and too conscious of those shining talents, which no heart can, in some degree without difficulty, be proof against, when he chose to exert his art. I have the greatest reason to think, he, from that time, formed a design of enjoying my affections: he
made

made many attempts to come with his other brothers to Glamis; but they constantly, as Miss Graham told me, refused to bring him: and he introduced himself, or rather in a manner forced himself in, to come to Glamis one day with his sister; when she walked to Bridge Town, scarce three miles from Glamis, where she, and indeed myself, often used to go, to see an amiable and elegant woman, one Mrs. Douglas, wife to my dear Emilia's brother; where he sometimes, and particularly at that time, was staying. He, as I afterwards found, offered to set her home to Glamis, when she was staying with me, but she would not let him; upon which he told her, there were droves of horned cattle on the road, as it was the high road to Forfar, where he told her it was market-day; and knowing her extreme timi-

dity in that respect, he was sure she would not refuse him. She did not, and as he has a consummate assurance and high opinion of himself, though he sometimes affects modesty, he introduced himself to Lord S. and me; and under one pretence or other, contrived to stay a fortnight at Glamis; during which time, he did every thing to ingratiate himself, and succeeded so well, that he could not help perceiving the progress he had made: and indeed, when he pressed me to it, I partly confessed it. Luckily his sister was staying with me; so we never were alone, but us three walking a whole morning, to the amount of several miles measured, in the great hall at Glamis, every turn he marked with a pencil. I had my hand on a piece of paper he pinned up at the end of the hall, which paper and pencil, unluckily

unlucky a very remarkable one, he told me he would preserve as his life; but I hope he has lost it. I am not sure, but I have reason to think, he got some of my hair from his sister. He was ordered to London to join his regiment.

Mr. Graham, of Fuitry, did not know of my liking for his brother; but as his assistance was absolutely necessary in getting the money conveyed to London, which I was bent on sending him as from an unknown; Miss G. told him that, out of friendship for her, and thinking her brother James a very promising young man, I meant to send him some money to spend in London: accordingly, he assisted her in forwarding it to him. Miss Graham contrived a way for us to correspond, which, though the letters were intercepted,

tercepted, nothing could be discovered, as we fixed initials quite different from the real names ; by which we signified ourselves, and the people we had ofteneft occasion to mention : and when I meant to tell her any thing, or ſhe to me, always ſaid C. L. bid me tell A. B. ſo and ſo. I burnt all her letters as I received them, which I am now ſorry I did, and I demanded the ſame of her ; but ſhe begged of me earneſtly to let her keep, for her peruſal and entertainment, ſometimes thoſe parts of my letters which did not concern her brother :—that, I would not reſuſe her, promiſing me ſhe would burn or deſace every word concerning him, and ſhewing me a letter for an example of what ſhe ſaid.

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I saw Mr. James. Graham in London after he left Scotland, just before he sailed for Minorca; but found him much altered towards me, and therefore my pride made me treat him with the indifference I ought, though it almost broke my heart. This is all, and far too much, of this foolish affair.

I had almost forgotten to mention, that Miss Graham told me, the second of her three brothers (David) was a great admirer of mine, and perpetually talking of me; and that when he did, his eyes used to dart fire, and sparkle like diamonds (these were her very words) but I had only her word for thinking he had any partiality for me. He was still handsomer than either of his brothers (my favourite was the least so) but before I was scarce acquainted

acquainted with David, I was so taken up with James, that I paid no attention to him. James has or had a picture of me, which he drew himself from memory; and I am told by the few who saw it, that it resembles me more than any picture which was ever taken of me. I ought to tell you, why I said Mrs. G. was not good and virtuous: I am convinced, she did Miss Douglas's (Emelia) memory a great injustice, and in a most treacherous manner; for I am sure it sprang from her. She then quarrelled with Mrs. Mylne, an amiable woman, and universally respected, because her eldest brother married her second daughter; an agreeable good girl, but with no fortune: and before this, she used to profess just the same friendship and disinterested friendship she afterwards did for me; which
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had she been a man, was seemingly so violent, I should have called it love. She was very deceitful and cunning, and, I believe, had an intrigue with Mr. Dempster: she would with Mr. Nairn, had he chosen,

I asked Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, at the same time, for some of their hair (I think they were together, but of that cannot be positive) when I asked them. I asked also Mr. Matra for a lock of his. Mr. Stephens had a ring composed, half of Mrs. Stephens's hair and half of mine; it is quite plain, not set round with any thing. I cannot be certain whether I gave it him, or whether he got it himself—I think I gave it him myself; it was immediately after his marriage: but what puzzles my positive recollection is, that I know about

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that time, Mrs. Stephens asked me for some of my hair, which I gave her. She told me, soon after, that she intended giving George Walker some present, for the trouble he had about Mr. — and her letters; and that she intended giving him a breast-locket, with her own hair set in one part of it, and a bit of mine with it, and that she had some of it by her; which, as she could not afford to make him a great present of intrinsic value, she thought nothing could be more acceptable to so faithful a servant. I told her, as I then thought, that he certainly was so, and had been of great use to Mr. G. and me; but, that I thought it an odd present, these were my very words; and as I said no more, she bespoke it, and when it was finished, the addition of the piece of hair, which was very small and covered

covered with glass, prevented its fastening: so it was returned, and Mrs. Stephens got one ready made at a pawnbroker's shop, one day when she and me walked into the city, out of curiosity to see those kind of shops, and called at a great number: at one of them, I bought a watch which I gave George.—I gave George, about this time, some very old horse furniture; which, though quite spoilt, besides being infinitely too antiquated for use, contained so much silver, that if I do not mistake, it sold for upwards of 20l.: Mrs. Parish had displeased me so much, and, apt as I am to be imposed on, had shewn such proofs of a dirty interestedness, that I determined to part with her; but, as she had lived with, and partly educated me so many years, was resolved it should be on good terms; therefore, I resolved to raise

2000l. by any means, the first money I expended. This, I thought, would be sufficient to make her easy in circumstances, if she was interested as I thought her, or, if it was possible I had been mistaken in her character, convince me by her still remaining with me, that I had done her injustice. This I concealed from my mother, till I put it in execution, being greatly displeased at her offer of lending me 500l. when she knew, what distress I was in, and that such a sum would do nothing for me. I even denied to my mother, when I gave Mrs. Parish the 2000l. (which I did at Paul's Walden, borrowing it of Mr. Peele, when he came there after Lord S.'s death, some time before I returned to town) and my mother believed I did not entertain the most distant

tant thought that she would leave me, except by marrying.

As Mrs. Parish's conduct to me has been, her sister's excepted, the most vile, ungrateful, and pernicious, that ever was heard of, I shall say nothing about it here, as, during the whole, I cannot tax myself with doing any thing wrong; and this paper is only meant as a confession of my crimes and faults. But, if you please, I will tell you every circumstance relating to her behaviour, and to the strange manner she behaved to Mr. G. when, at his earnest request, he thinking she might be of use to me, I consented to his talking to her, and attempting to persuade her to stay with me, as from himself.

Just

Just before she left me, I went to Paul's Walden, to tell my mother I was married, that I might get the start of Mrs. Parish, who, I was sure, would write to tell her the very day after our parting was agreed on; and who, I believe, had it not been for interested motives, and the fear of displeasing my mother, would have told her long before, which I have many reasons to be certain she did not. I did not intend to declare my marriage till April, just before we left England, or to be married actually till we were abroad, a short time before I laid in; and I proposed to stay three or four years to visit France, Italy, Hungary, and Bohemia, and perhaps Spain and Portugal: I did not tell even Mr. Gray, positively, my designs about marriage.

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But I had almost forgotten, that the reason why I mentioned the 2000l. and Mrs. Parish, was, that I might tell you, soon after I came out of town after Lord S.'s death, I was perpetually sending George backwards and forwards to London, to raise the 2000l. After I applied to Mr. Mayne, (who said, he could not lend me that sum without his partner's concurrence), I then applied to Fernandez, and a number of other Jews, who did not know me, and I did not sign my name to the letter; but they would not lend me on any other terms than annuities, which I would not think of, and they were dreadfully unreasonable ones. If I could, I would have raised three thousand pounds, to have had one thousand pounds in hand. When George went backwards and forwards

wards to these Jews, I used always to write to, and hear from Mr. G. who stayed just about that time after me in town. When I was at Paul's Walden, and he in Scotland, all his letters to me came under cover to George, and he always directed mine to him; and under some pretence or other, went to Welwyn, Stephenage, Hitchin, or Hatfield, and put them in himself.

When I came occasionally to Paul's Walden, for a week or a few days, once or twice a fortnight, after I was settled in town, I used to enclose my letters often, under cover to George, (whom, on that account, I generally left in town) and with it, directions sometimes to him, to send messages, or deliver notes about plays, operas, dinings, tea-drinking, &c. and
often

often inclosed directions to the house-keeper of affairs relating to the house, &c. and sometimes I enclosed to George under the frank to her, and bid her give it once or twice. I remember, that having enclosed a number of letters and notes to be delivered out, I said, Go and tell Mr. G. I have no time to write now, but shall be in Grosvenor-square, and expect him at such an hour. When Mrs. Stephens eloped, and I came to Paul's Walden, I left George in town to receive the Planta family, and send me a constant account of their motions; which he did: I wish I had kept them, as you might have liked to see them; but being, as I thought, of no consequence after she returned and knew the accounts, I burnt them.

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Mr.

Mr. Mylne, whose sister married Mr. G. only lent Lord S. 10,000l. the half of what he is worth ; and though the physicians declared her life was in danger, if she did not go to Italy for her health directly (where I believe she now is) he was threatened to be stopped by Lord S.'s creditors, who would come upon him. In this situation, he desired Mr. G. when he saw him in Scotland, and who he knew had long been an acquaintance of mine, to write to me, and beg I would allow him to use my name, and say, I would see the money should be paid out of the Scotch estates, and the first debt discharged. Mr. G. told him, he could not possibly take such a liberty with me ; especially as he had not written to me even a letter of condolance, as civility required, since Lord S.'s death. But Mr. Mylne pressed

pressed him so much, and conjured him, as he regarded his sister's life ; that, not to make it appear suspicious by too positive refusing, he wrote me a formal letter, and, at the same time a private one, (both of which I am pretty sure are returned, and I can shew you) and I answered him in the same way : to Mr. Mylne I wrote a civil letter, telling him Mr. G. had informed me of his wishes ; that I was sorry it was not in my power to see his money paid which was due to him, as I had refused taking administration ; but that if it was absolutely necessary, my regard for Mrs. Mylne, who is indeed an amiable woman, would induce me to join with him in being security to his creditors : however, he never, after writing me a letter of thanks, claimed any offer, and got about very well without it.

I confess, I should not have thought it necessary, or any part of my agreement, to tell you the reason why I saw Mr. G. only every other night, had you not desired I would: it was so agreed on between us, that by the intervention of one night, we might meet the next with more pleasure, and have the less chance of being tired of each other. Not to mention, that as it was often four or five in the morning before he went away, a night of sleep was absolutely necessary: as our conversation was to be lasting, and I generally went to my room at eleven o'clock the night he came, which I thought would look odd, and sometimes put me to difficulties, if I was at the Opera in a great croud, had company supped with me, or any other hindrance; and I always contrived that should not be the case the nights he came:

came: I saw him some part of every day, or when I did not by any accident, he never failed writing.

A black inky kind of medicine (which I have mentioned before) occasioned two of my miscarriages: the third, after trying the black medicine without effect, was occasioned by a vomit of emetic; eating much pepper, and drinking a wine-glass of brandy. I am ashamed to say, I tried all these things the fourth time, without the smallest effect.

I do assure you, that no man ever took the smallest liberty with me (Lord S. yourself, and Mr. G. excepted) except three or four times that Mr. Stephens kissed me, under one pretence or other; and once or twice that Mr. G. S. as we were standing
by

by the fire-side, put his arm round my waist. Once, also, as I was admiring some very scarce and valuable plants at Hammer-smith, Mr. Lee told me, if I would allow him the honour to salute a Countess, he would give me the most curious; which I did, and had the plant. I recollect once, that Mrs. Stephens sitting on one of her husband's knees, I sat on the other.

Mr. G. S. I know, was free in his way of thinking and acting; but his brother I thought a different man, from some things I had heard him say; and which Mrs. Matra told me. Two or three times Mr. Stephens has come into my room, when my maid was dressing my hair, and I took him into my bed-room, out of the drawing-room, where Mr. G. M. was to speak

speak about going off with Mrs. Stephens.

Many of the things these papers contain, I have had an opportunity of telling you since I began to write them, which I did not intend to do, till you read them here: other things you have, in the course of the same time, told me you was thoroughly acquainted with: however I would not alter, and I give you my thoughts exactly, as they first presented themselves to me, as you will easily perceive I wrote no rough copy.

My almost starving myself to death at Glamis; my taking, in anger, almost a whole bottle of that black medicine; my foolish behaviour about the cloaths and favours I bespoke for Mr. Stephens's wedding ;

ding ; the dancings on that occasion ; my allowing Mr. Stephens to call me his own wife ; my worse than foolishness in going to St. Paul's with Mrs. Stephens and Mr. Pennick ; and my making an excuse (with the last desert of christening some kittens) to have company to dine with me that day : all this knowing you are thoroughly informed of, I do not give more minutely than thus, on that account ; nor should I have named them at all, had it not been for the oath's sake, which I could not satisfy my conscience in taking, if I omitted, at least mentioning, any one of even the most trifling imprudencies I committed.

I have told you of Mr. C. W. having my hair and I his ; and you know what a silly, though short refusal, I wrote to Mr. Mac Callaster, the autumn (I think it was)

was) before my marriage—To his last, I gave him no answer.

I have now fully performed my promise, and I rely on your's to excuse all my faults, except want of veracity, which I am certain you cannot find here, and never shall again, even in the most trifling matter: as I will always rather prefer incurring your more than usual share of dislike to me, than say what is not true.

You saw a bit of these papers last night, when you came into my dressing-room, though I begged you would not look, and was angry at my minuteness, and telling you such trifles: if I had done otherwise, (besides my oath) might you not with justice, and would you not have said, I ordered you to be exact, minute, and scrupulous;

N

pulous;

pulous; so as to declare every thought that you had; were not these your own words? And how did you know what I should esteem trifling? Therefore, my dearest, you should excuse this minuteness, and whatever manner I may mention the facts in, so they be but facts!

God blefs you, and forgive me all my sins and faults.

FEBRUARY 3d, 1778. Tuesday morning.

I have had, you know, the paper you gave me in my pocket-book these three or four days; but, according to your orders, never looked at it till now. In consequence of what you here say, I find myself obliged to say something more about my fits, to which I did not intend, otherwise,

wife, to have added any thing. If I were to say, as you seem to require of me, that I ever could prevent or shorten them, and did not, except the one time I have mentioned, I should take my oath of a lie.

When I was a girl, I had two or three times obstructions, and then I took, as it were, common hysteric fits ; but I never had them so violent, or any thing like convulsions, till four months that I had an obstruction after my second or third child, I forget which. And though my mind was perfectly easy at that time, I being in Scotland, and had always company that I liked, yet I suffered incredibly from these fits, both in health and looks ; being exceedingly reduced and weakened. I really believe it was owing to Dr. Fergusson's prescriptions, and to the

easy state of my mind and good spirits, that I recovered ; but I have been subject to them ever since. Dr. Hunter knows, about three years ago or four, how much I suffered in my looks from them ; when he was sent for to me the day after I had been in one very bad, (no affectation) had you seen me after, you would have been convinced, would have affected a person both at the same time and afterwards, as it has often done me. Sometimes when I have had warning, which is not often, I have stopped the fit, by plunging my hands into cold water, and sometimes by drinking hot water or camomile tea. The time you went to Newcastle ; after that, when on your return you found me so ill, I felt myself going to be ill ; and having warning enough to drink a basin of warm water, and plunging my hands in cold water,

water, I prevented the fit coming on ; but I never durst mention it till now, lest you should say it was an affectation or air that I gave myself.

What you say Dr. Scott told you about my fits being pretended, and not a natural complaint, was as false, as I dare say his saying my miscarrying was, when I had that flooding, the first time of my being regular after my lying-in ; for you always took (at least I never perceived you did in the least otherwise) a most certain precaution. I remember Dr. Scott asked me once, if not twice, whether I did not think I might have miscarried ; I said, I could not tell, but thought only a flooding ; for you may be sure, I would not hint, or even have him suspect, that there was any reason why I could not have miscarried.

carried. To the best of my recollection, he questioned me on this subject, one day when you brought him into the bed-room, and slipped yourself into the dressing-room for a minute, and not the moment I conclude you mean ; that is, when he saying you sent him, which you was angry at that time ; upon the maturest recollection, I can venture to say, he did not ask me that question, or any other about my health, except in general terms, how I did ; something about my dinner, and mentioned the weather, or some such subject. You wanted an explanation, or should not have written this.

N B. Though I do not recollect, I declare upon oath, Mr. Stephens kissing me oftener than I have mentioned ; my sitting on his knee oftener ; or Mr. G. S.
 putting

putting his arms oftener round my waist, and that was by accident; yet I have such a dread of the possibility of perjuring myself, that I will not take my oath without a proviso, I really believe a needless one, that they may have repeated these liberties oftener, but never any others; except Mr. Stephens shaking me by the hand.

May I never feel happiness in this world, or the world to come; and may my children meet every hour of their lives unparalleled misery, if I have, either directly or indirectly, told one or more falsehoods in these narratives; or if I have kept any thing a secret, that even Mr. Bowes could esteem a fault.

This

This I give under my hand, and shall never plead forgetfulness; or any thing else, for the truth of one tittle of it. And I do further swear the truth of it upon the Holy Bible: and as a declaration of my sincerity, shall take the Holy Sacrament upon it the next time I go to church, when there is one.

GIBSIDE, Feb. 3, 1778.

Examined with the Exhibit, contained in the Process transmitted from the Arches Court of Canterbury, this Fourth Day of October, 1788. By me, T. DODD, Clerk to Mr. Morley, Proctor, Doctor's Commons.

F I N I S.



AUG 21 1941